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Written Testimony for Raised Bill 7006

Submitted by Linda Estabrook, Executive Director

Hartford Gay and Lesbian Health Collective

On behalf of the Hartford Gay and Lesbian Health Collective, I urge the Public Health Committee to pass Raised Bill 7006, An Act Concerning Birth Certificate Amendments.

The Hartford Gay and Lesbian Health Collective receives calls almost every day from Connecticut residents: individuals who identify all along the continuum of gender identity and expression. They seek information, guidance, support and resources to help them become the person they truly know they are inside.

Having legal government documents reflecting an individual's gender will go a long way in assuring the full engagement of these individuals in our society. The support to be found in the laws of the State of Connecticut, including the passage of this bill, makes Connecticut the kind of state that embraces all of its citizens.

Such changes in Connecticut law related to birth certificates are consistent with policies endorsed by professional organizations including the American Medical Association and American Psychological Association. Connecticut will join other states around the country that have passed similar legislation.

I thank you for your time and look forward to the changes you will be making to provide continuing support to all Connecticut citizens.

Linda Estabrook, MPH

Executive Director